

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5617
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2010
DRILLING ACTIVITIES IN COAL BED METHANE
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has not taken concentrated step to start the drilling activities in the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Block awarded in 2004; and

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b): Under CBM-II Round held during 2004, ONGC was awarded 5 CBM blocks. Out of these, ONGC has relinquished 3 blocks, namely ST-CBM-2003/II, WD-CBM-2003/II and BS(3)-CBM- 2003/II, on the ground of poor prospectivity, after completing the Minimum Work Programme(MWP) of drilling coreholes/test wells under Exploration Phase-I. Out of the remaining two blocks, ONGC has so far drilled 8 coreholes and 2 test wells in SK-CBM-2003/II block against the MWP of 10 coreholes and 3 test wells in Phase-I. In the other block, NK (W)-CBM-2003/II, ONGC has however, drilled 8 coreholes as against the MWP of drilling 8 coreholes and 2 test wells in Phase-I. The Contractor has requested for the approval of the Government to exit from this block, without completing the MWP of Phase-I, on the ground of poor prospectivity of the block.